

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 414 - SB 1805

March 29, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Repeals the Tennessee Voter Confidence Act (TVCA) and authorizes the current voting method to continue. The bill will repeal the upcoming mandate to use paper ballots and will not require the purchase of precinct based optical scanners.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Local Expenditures – Cost Avoidance - \$7,622,600/One-Time
Cost Avoidance - \$4,174,900/Every Two Years**

Other Fiscal Impact – Prevents the expenditure of Federal HAVA (Help America Vote Act) funds of \$27,000,000 which were to be used to purchase county voting systems that provided voter-verified paper ballots of the voter's vote as required by the Tennessee Voter Confidence Act.

Assumptions:

- Prevents the expenditure of Federal HAVA (Help America Vote Act) funds of \$27,000,000 which were to be used to purchase county voting systems that provided voter-verified paper ballots of the voter's vote as required by the Tennessee Voter Confidence Act (TVCA).
- The HAVA funds were required to implement the precinct-based optical scanner voting system to replace the voting systems in 93 Tennessee counties that now use Direct Recording Electronic Voting machines.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, the cost avoidance to local governments due to the removal of the requirement that counties change to an optical scan voting system to conduct elections is estimated to be a one-time cost avoidance of \$7,622,568 for the purchase of booths, security containers, training, storage for the ballots, and other associated costs of implementation of the TVCA.
- The Coordinator of Elections also indicates a cost avoidance of \$4,174,944 which would have occurred every two years for printing paper ballots statewide. This cost reflects an election cycle and does not include municipal elections, special elections, or a Presidential Preference Primary.

- These estimates are based on a survey that was conducted by the Coordinator's office to ascertain the overall financial impact to local government to implement the TVCA.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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